Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

!. (Currently amended) A method for allocating a service in a distributed data processing system ~~on a network~~, said method comprising:

collecting a set of performance data representative of a set of physical characteristics of the distributed data processing system to form a collection of a set of performance data ~~network~~;

providing, using said collection of a set of performance data, cluster data that identifies ~~identifying~~ a plurality of node clusters in said distributed data processing system, wherein a node cluster comprises an aggregation of nodes ~~in response to said collection of said set of performance data~~;

correlating at least one property of each of the of the identified plurality of node clusters with at least one performance rule required for supporting the service to determine a compliance of each of the plurality of node clusters ~~cluster~~ to the at least one performance rule for supporting the service;

showing ~~a map as a result of said correlation, said map including a first cluster of~~ each node cluster of [[said]] the plurality of node clusters that complies with the at least one performance rule for supporting the service ~~on the network~~; and

allocating the service to one of the ~~complying~~ node clusters that complies with the at least one performance rule.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the [[map]] showing includes showing at least one server within a first node cluster of said plurality of node clusters that complies with the at least one performance rule for supporting the service ~~on the network~~.

5. (Original) The method of claim 4, further comprising:

allocating the service to a first server of said at least one server

6. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein collecting the set of performance data representative of the set of physical characteristics of the ~~network~~ distributed data processing system comprises probing the ~~network~~ distributed data processing system for a round trip time.

7. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein collecting the set of performance data representative of the set of physical characteristics of the distributed data processing system ~~network~~ comprises probing the distributed data processing system ~~network~~ for a hop count.

8. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein collecting the set of performance data representative of the set of physical characteristics of the ~~network~~ distributed data processing system comprises probing the ~~network~~ distributed data processing system for a bottleneck link speed.

9-21. (Canceled)

22. (Currently amended) A method for allocating a service in a distributed data processing system ~~on a network~~, the method comprising:

receiving logical data associated with a logical configuration of [[a]] the distributed data processing system, the distributed data processing system including a plurality of clients and a plurality of servers, wherein the plurality of clients and the plurality of servers communicate over the distributed data processing system ~~network~~, and wherein each server of the plurality of servers provides at least one assigned service, and wherein the logical data includes data indicating [[the]] interconnections of the distributed data processing system;

collecting performance data based on the logical data, the performance data being representative of at least one physical characteristic of the distributed data processing system to form collected performance data;

determining, using the collected performance data, cluster data ~~identifying~~ that identifies each node cluster of a plurality of node clusters within the distributed data processing system ~~based on the collected performance data~~;

correlating the determined cluster data with at least one performance rule for supporting the service;

showing ~~at least one map~~ each node cluster of the plurality of node clusters that complies with the at least one performance rule based on the correlation; and

allocating the service ~~on the network~~ to a node cluster within the distributed data processing system based on the showing ~~of the map~~.

23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22 wherein the performance data includes round trip time, hop count and bottleneck speed.

24. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22 wherein the cluster data is determined responsive to a self organizing feature map neural network output.

25. (Currently amended) The method of claim 22 further comprising issuing a probe from a module, wherein the logical data is received at the module responsive to issuing the probe, and wherein an engine correlates the determined cluster data with the at least one performance rule.

26. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein showing each node cluster of the plurality of node clusters that complies with the at least one performance rule for supporting the service, comprises showing a map of each node cluster of the plurality of node clusters that complies with the at least one performance rule for supporting the service, and wherein allocating the service to one of the ~~complying~~ node clusters that complies with the at least one performance rule comprises allocating the service to one of the ~~complying~~ node clusters that complies with the at least one performance rule based on the map.